

REMARKS

Claim Amendments:

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 8, which has been cancelled. In the Examiner's Answer and the Final Office Action, claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as allowable if it was rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits this amendment without prejudice to filing a continuing application. As noted in Appellant's Brief at page 4, footnote 2, claim 8 contained a typographical error, and the range recited should be 0.01 to about 0.5 g/in². Support for the limitation can be found at page 5, line 4 of the originally filed specification. Claim 1 has been further amended to remove the "top layer" limitation, which is not necessary for patentability of the claim.

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action, and it is believed that the above amendment places this application in condition for allowance.

Regarding withdrawn claims 11-23, should claims 1-7 and 9-10 be allowed, applicants would be amenable to including the limitation "in an amount of about 0.01 to about 0.5 g/in² of the alumina-silicate coating" at the end of clause (a) of claim 11 so that claim 11 contains all of the limitations of claim 1. In the Office Action mailed February 24, 2006, it was indicated that the Examiner would consider rejoining the non-elected method claims. Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of method claims 11-23 upon the amendment suggested immediately above.

Conclusion

Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. It is not believed that any fees are due upon submission of this amendment. If any fees are due, however, the USPTO is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-3329.

Application No. 10/757,684
Amendment May 4, 2007

The undersigned was authorized by Richard A. Negin, Reg. No. 28,649, an attorney of record in the subject application, to prepare and file this Amendment on behalf of the Assignee.

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Respectfully submitted,
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